



SWANBANK

September Magazine 2025

Message from our Ministers...

'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' (Lamentations 3:22–23).

As September arrives, we enter into what as a church family we often call our 'New Year'. Just as a new school year brings fresh opportunities, September is a wonderful moment to reset, refocus, and recommit ourselves to walking with God together. It's a time to build habits of faith, to meet regularly with one another, and to encourage each other in worship, prayer, and fellowship.

At SwanBank, we believe that being part of a church family is not just about attending services, but about belonging to a community that supports, challenges, and loves one another. As we step into this new season, let's each make a conscious choice to come together, show up, and be present. Together, we can grow deeper in faith and stronger in love for God, each other and our community.

Looking ahead, we are glad to announce the return of our Church Birthday Weekend, which will take place, next month, on October 18th and 19th. This is a great chance to celebrate God's goodness to us over the years and to give thanks for all He continues to do through SwanBank.

On Saturday evening on the 18th October at



5pm, we'll be gathering for a family-friendly evening of food and a fun quiz. This is a brilliant opportunity to invite friends, neighbours, and anyone who might not normally come to church—it's a relaxed and welcoming space for all. On Sunday 19th we will have our usual three services and again, it's an opportunity to invite others.

As part of our celebration, we take up the tradition of inviting any who can, to give a financial gift in thankfulness for God's ongoing work here. Gift envelopes will be available, with Gift Aid options for taxpayers. More details will follow in October, but for now, please save the date, invite others, prayerfully consider a financial gift to church and most importantly, plan to join us.

Together, let's step into this new year with open hearts, ready for all God has in store.

Kathryn

Another story from our Community Grocery

Hi, my name is Jenny, and my friend is Linda. We started volunteering at Burslem Community Grocery in January 2025 following volunteering on Christmas Day 2024 at Swan Bank.

As retired nurses we both felt as if we had time on our hands, we needed to be doing something useful to help others, so having made our decision we went to speak to Nan (our intrepid boss!).

After two weeks we found ourselves delegated to the outdoor stock container to streamline the existing stock, subsequently we have continued to work there every Thursday afternoon.

The "Boss" has assured us that no one else

can disrupt our system, as we are the only two who understand it! As we both enjoy our time in the stock container, we will continue to volunteer and support Nan in the Burslem Community Grocery.



Regular Activities at Swan Bank

Sunday

Sunday Services at 9am, 10:30am and 6:15pm.
Sunday Night Young Adults – Fellowship Room, 8-9pm.

Monday

Bible Study – Coffee bar, 10-11:30am.
Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am-12noon.
Dementia Activity Group – Coffee Lounge, 1-3pm.
Gospel Choir – Fellowship Room, 7:30-9pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month.

Tuesday

Little Treasures (0-4 years old)– Lower Hall, 9:30-11am (*term time only*).
Chatty Café – Coffee Lounge, 10am-12noon.
Tuesday Club – Coffee Lounge, 1:30-3:30pm.

Wednesday

Friends in Fellowship (*was Knit and Natter*) – Meeting Room 1, 10am-12noon.
Changes – Coffee Lounge, 10am-1pm.
Community Lounge/Foodbank – Lower Hall, 2-4pm

Thursday

Prayer Time – Prayer Chapel, 9-9:30am.
Small Group Meeting – Room 1, 10-11:30am, (*meets fortnightly*) – see Julia Hatcher for dates.
Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am-12noon.
Younger Youth (School years 3-6) – Upper Hall, 5:45-7:15pm (*term time only*).
Youth Club (11-16 years old) – Upper Hall, 7:30-9pm (*term time only*).

Saturday

Messy Church (Primary school aged children) – Lower Hall, 10am-12noon (*first Saturday of each month – next date is Sat. 4th Oct.*) Breakfast is included and only £1 per child!
Women's Walking Group – (*3rd Saturday of each month*). See Liz Thompson for details.

Contact the office on 01782 575129 for further details of all our regular activities

CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR SOUP KITCHEN??

WHO WE ARE:

A group of 35 volunteers based at SwanBank Church

WHAT WE DO:

We cook and serve breakfast for 60+ guests each week providing a warm welcome and practical support for rough sleepers, the homeless and any in need living in and around Burslem.

WHAT WE NEED:

£7000 enables this provision for 12 months

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Support us, either with a one off or regular donation, any amount donated will be very much appreciated in order to keep this vital work going.

The QR code will take you directly to our giving page.

THANK YOU!!



Upcoming Events

2025 CITY PRAYER BREAKFASTS

Praying together for God's blessing on our communities, our city and our nation



Sat 15th March
Beacon House of Prayer,
550 High Street, Sandford,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 5PD
(parking available on the adjacent
petrol station or business park)



Sat 28th June
Potters Church,
The Bridge Centre,
Birches Head Road,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST2 8DD



Sat 27th September
Marychurch Centre,
153 Werrington Road,
Bucknall,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST2 9AQ



Sat 29th November
St. Mary's Trencham,
Trencham Park Drive (off
Whitmore Road), Trencham,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 8AB



All Prayer Breakfasts will take place from 8.00am - 10.00am

For more information contact : email@saltbox.org.uk

Our events are free but an offering would be greatly appreciated to cover expenses. Thank you.

SALTBOX
Strengthening Our Communities

CITY VISION MINISTRIES

Coffee Morning

Come and join us for free cake, coffee and a chat.



Date - 30th September

Time - 10.30am - 12pm

Location - The Coffee Lounge,
SwanBank Church, Burslem

Working in partnership with Chatty Cafe

message



SWANBANK

CareLink

SALTBOX
Strengthening Our Communities

ST. ANDREW'S - WESTON COYNEY
PRESENTS...
AN EVENING WITH
PAUL JONES (THE MANFREDs)



From atheism in the Sixties, and from fear and deception, to the joy of unconditional love; Paul and his wife, Fiona, will share their story in word and song.

Come hear their inspiring, humorous and powerful story, and how faith in God has changed their lives!

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
AT 7.30PM

Please Book Your Free Seats with the Church Office (01782) 312570
www.allsaintsandrewspeters.chessck.co.uk

Stoke-on-Trent
UNITED CELEBRATION



Sunday 14 September - 6.15pm

Swan Bank Church, Swan Square, Burslem,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 2AA



Guest Speaker
Ros Powell



Worship Leader
Paul Critchley
Presence Worship

Join with Christians from across North Staffordshire for an evening of worship, prayer and fellowship

Come and hear the amazing testimony of wonderful Christian evangelist, Ros Powell

For more information contact
email@saltbox.org.uk

CITY VISION MINISTRIES



SALTBOX
Strengthening Our Communities

THE GATEWAY METHODIST CHURCH
GOLDENHILL
COFFEE MORNINGS 2025



2nd Saturday of every month
August 9th, September 13th,
October 11th, November 8th and
13th December
10am - 12 noon
All welcome

ADVANCED
SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

For volunteers within the
Stoke on Trent Mission Circuit,
who MUST renew every 4 years

Swan Bank Church,
Fellowship Room

Saturday 18th October 2025
9:30am to 4pm



To book a place
Scan the QR Code or email:
shirley@swanbank.org.uk
officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk

FOUNDATION
SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

For ALL volunteers within the
Stoke on Trent Mission circuit,
who MUST renew every 4 years

Swan Bank Church,
Fellowship Room

Friday 23rd September 2025
7pm to 9:30pm



To book a place
Scan the QR Code or email:
shirley@swanbank.org.uk
officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk

SWANBANK



Volunteer Market

Swan Bank Methodist Church

Connect with Ministries and Opportunities

Engage with community service
and church activities

Sunday 7th Sept 2025
12md-1pm
Lower Hall

Ministry Leaders

To book a display table
Contact: officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk

The Amazing Work of Number 11



NUMBER
eleven

Imagine a world without empathy, where the downtrodden are left to fend for themselves. Contrast that with the reality we live in, a reality where Number 11 stands as a pillar of compassion, reaching out to those in need, offering solace, support, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. In the last 12 months Number 11 has provided:

Meals and Nutrition Support:

- **1,330 meals** for clients
- **1,004 meals** for others
- **233 take-outs.**

Crisis and Case Management:

- **237** professional counselling sessions
- The team managed **1,384** one-to-one situations addressing a wide range of needs from housing and health to welfare and wellbeing.

Engagement showing wider community reach:

- **2,477** visits to No. 11 from clients
- **2,044** visits to No. 11 from others.

A 6-month workshop programme to support clients with 'the toughs' in life, including:

- Grief & Loss
- Developing self-esteem

- Building confidence
- Achieving better sleep

Behind every statistic however, there are faces, stories, and lives transformed. These clients, often facing unimaginable hardships, find themselves at a crossroads where hope seems elusive. Yet, it is in these moments of darkness that we offer support to help people shine the brightest.

What drives Number 11 to devote ourselves tirelessly to our clients? It's a force far more potent than mere obligation; it's compassion. The staff have a great heart and the understanding that no one should have to navigate life's trials alone. Swan Bank are hugely instrumental in the work we do, so a huge thanks! And in the words of Helen Keller, who once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Together, let us be the agents of change, the champions of hope, and the architects of a future where no one is left behind.

Peter Mellish,
CEO Number 11



Community Friendship Walk








Saltbox organised the city's first ever Friendship Walk on Sunday 3rd August to mark the anniversary of the sad disturbances that took place in Hanley in 2024. Over 60

people met on a sunny afternoon and walked from the Potteries Museum to the Regent Road Mosque. Representatives from various local faith groups took part including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and Muslim, together with the Lord Mayor and several local councilors. At the mosque, everyone was given a warm welcome and served tea and biscuits. The aim of the walk was to encourage improved community cohesion and promote friendship, love, care and mutual understanding.

Lloyd Cooke



September 2025 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	7 th September	14 th September	21 st September	28 th September
Swan Bank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Jeffries  Jeffries A Johnson	Brabbs Brabbs City Celebration	Stephens Stephens Cooke	Stephens Stephens (Harvest)  Jeffries 
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Price Price	Jolley Jolley	Cooke Cooke	Hancock Hancock
Oasis Church	10.45am	Davies	Boateng	Davies	Sproston
Wesley Hall	10.45am	Andrews	Tattersall	Own Arrangement	Wakelin 
The Gateway	10.45am	Tattersall (Anniv.)	Leese	Own Arrangement	Boateng
Mt Pleasant	10.45am	Tindale	Mason	Wilshaw	Own Arrangement
Packmoor	11.00am	J Johnson	Batho	Tretheway	Own Arrangement
Village Ch	11.00am	Wakelin	Jeffries (Harvest)	Mason	Nixon
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Boateng Cooper	Shaw Chapman	Cooper Stephens Q & A	Brooks Wakelin 

A Journey of Faith and Recovery

In March this year, I suffered a terrible fall at home, leaving me unable to get up and exposed to the cold and rain until a neighbour heard my calls and rang for an ambulance. My injuries were severe: a fractured right shoulder, smashed elbow, two pelvic fractures, and several chipped bones. I spent a month in hospital, barely able to move, relying on nurses and physiotherapists to help me shuffle my legs. Despite regular physio, progress was slow, and I left hospital still unable to walk properly.

Back home, I was provided with aids such as a walking frame, but my right arm was in a cast, making it even harder to move. Physiotherapists visited twice, so most of my progress came from my own determination. I prayed constantly, asking God for strength and help to walk again. Eventually, I was able to shuffle to the bathroom, and over time, perseverance and faith allowed me to improve.

I am a determined person; once I set my mind on something, I do it. I made the decision to resume attending church every Sunday, from nine o'clock until midday, which became my special time with God. The journey was incredibly hard, and there were moments when I questioned whether it was worth the fight, but prayer and faith kept me going. Gradually, the number of daily carer visits

was reduced as I regained more independence, and I eventually declined long-term care because I felt able to manage on my own.

Just as I was regaining strength, I received a diagnosis of lung cancer, which came as a shock. My only symptoms were pain from my arm and elbow. Supported by my family, Macmillan nurses, and unwavering faith, I remain positive and hopeful, finding comfort in prayer and rest. Throughout this ordeal, my faith in Jesus has been my anchor. I talk to Him constantly, thanking Him for every day. I feel His presence with me, especially through the hardest times. Prayer has been a source of strength and healing, and I feel closer to God now than ever before.

I cherish my time at church, with my family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and I try to live each day with gratitude and purpose.

Despite everything, I believe there is still a purpose for my life, and I am grateful for the time I have.

Vera Woodcock



Our Network of Care Stories



Gloria Earl

I love Swan Bank as it's not just a Sunday church, it's a people's church.

I started going in 1989 when John Hibberts was the Minister. Sunday Service sets me up for the week ahead.

Gloria loves her family, her garden and being with people. She still serves people and has a kind, warm heart. She said to say "she also has cold hands!".

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5



Theresa McKenzie Hall

I used to work in A&E, following a longer career, working in the NHS and am now retired.

I've been unable to attend Church as often as I'd like due to poor health. Sometimes, significant pain can mean I find prayer difficult. I have been a member of SwanBank for many years.

I particularly love spending time in my garden and time with my one and only son. I love cooking special West Indian Sunday dinners. Theresa has a good eye for fashion and enjoys dressing with style. She is looking forward to her next challenge, learning to fly and acquiring her pilots licencel She hopes to have lessons via the Staffordshire Flying Club.

"He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless."

Isaiah 40:29

Prayer Focus

'For the beauty of the Earth' - John Rutter
'What a wonderful world' - Louis Armstrong

Words to remind me of God's creation as well as being good songs. It's a reminder of how good God is, even in chaos.

Walking in the garden, especially this summer, it's a place for me to meet with God as talking and praying seems natural.

Thanking Him for all I see in my small space. A plant coming into flower for the first time, finding something growing I didn't know was there. Sometimes forgotten pots suddenly showing a green shoot.

Walking in a favourite place or somewhere new, especially woodland with the trees, brambles and weeds; I stand looking at it all, knowing that in my garden, the weeds would not be welcome but in this space, they blow in the wind and scatter their seeds. Making it beautiful with yellow, blue, red and orange all mixed together.

Much like our world where there are so many different people. As I walk, I pray the peace I find here is a peace the world could have, accepting all our differences.

Even in the dark days that we all experience at times ... this song by Selah reminds me we are not alone. "He will hold me fast, Because He loves me so. He will hold me fast".

Lord never let us not see the beauty of the world you created. Even in troubled times. Thank you Lord, for holding us fast

Amen

Sue Woodward



SWAN BANK NOTICEBOARD

Messy Church

There is no Messy Church in September so the next one will be **Saturday 4th October.**

**Knit and Natter**

Knit and Natter is now known as **'Friends in Fellowship'**. Apparently, there was plenty of nattering but no knitting! It still meets Wednesdays 10am to 12noon.

Foodbank

The Foodbank would really appreciate any strong carrier bags (or bags for life) that you may have spare, as our stocks are running low. Please leave them with the office or **Sue Woodward**. Many Thanks!

**Pastoral Network of Care**

Over the last 6 months we have been reading about individuals who are in our 'At Home' and TLC groups. Please pray for Church family members who are no longer able to get to church. Pray for their health and well-being and that they know they are loved and missed. Thank you,

Janet Bagnall

**Harvest Sunday 28th September**

We invite you to bring along non-perishable food items to our Swan Bank Harvest Sunday Service for our work with the Foodbank and Burslem Community Grocery.

Whitehill Methodist Community Church**Wednesday Mid-Week Services**

3rd Sept **George Wilshaw**
10th Sept **Tony Tideswell**
17th Sept **Doreen Leese**
24th Sept **Pastor Lynn Tindale**
Whitehill Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DS, commencing at 10.15am. All welcome!

Church Events or Articles for the Magazine

If there are any church groups or events (at Swan Bank or even further afield) that you would like advertising on the noticeboard or if you have articles for the Magazine, then please contact either **Shirley Brooks** or **Nigel Johnson**



Swan Bank Church, Swan Square, Burslem, ST6 2AA

Office hours:- 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Thursday

01782 575129



admin@swanbank.org.uk



www.swanbank.org.uk

Sunday 10:30am Service, live stream links:-



www.youtube.com/@SwanBank/streams or



www.facebook.com/swanbank/?locale=en_GB



Swan Bank Kids Registration

Swan Bank Kids Registration Details Update Request



The safety, security and wellbeing of your children is very important to us.

Therefore we are updating the important details we hold for each child that attends Swan Bank Kids.



Please complete one registration form for each of your children that attend the Swan Bank Kids session on Sunday mornings.

Please follow the link:

<https://swanbank.churchsuite.com/-/forms/z8cj8g24>

Or



Scan the QR Code